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(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): INNOGENETICS N.V. [BE/BE]; Technologiepark 6, B-9052 Ghent (BE). ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS GMBH [DE/DE]; Sandhofer Strasse 116, 68305 Mannheim (DE).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CLAEYS, Sofie [BE/BE]; Brieviersweg 365, B-8310 Brugge-Sint-Kruis (BE). JANNES, Geert [BE/BE]; E. Vanhoorenbekeaan 23/1, B-3010 Leuven (BE). HABERHAUSEN, Gerd [DE/DE]; Kapellenwiese 35, 82377 Penzberg (DE). EMRICH, Thomas [DE/DE]; Blombergstrasse 7, 82393 Iffeldorf (DE). VERDOODT, Lia [BE/BE]; Wielewaalpark 10, B-9840 De Pinte (BE).

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(54) Title: DETECTION, IDENTIFICATION AND DIFFERENTIATION OF EUBACTERIAL TAXA USING A HYBRIDIZATION ASSAY

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method for the specific detection and/or identification of *Staphylococcus* species, in particular *Staphylococcus aureus*, using new nucleic acid sequences derived from the ITS (Internal Transcribed Spacer) region. The present invention relates also to said new nucleic acid sequences derived from the ITS region, between the 16S and 23S ribosomal ribonucleic acid (rRNA) or rRNA genes, to be used for the specific detection and/or identification of *Staphylococcus* species, in particular of *S. aureus*, in a biological sample. It relates also to nucleic acid primers to be used for the amplification of said spacer region of *Staphylococcus* species in a sample.

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